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Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: human resources development

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 93 (see A/58/483, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 22nd and 37th meetings, on 27 October and 11 December 2003. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.22 and 37).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.5 and A/C.2/58/L.56

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/58/L.5), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Recalling* its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999 and 56/189 of 21 December 2001, as well as the relevant sections of the Agenda for Development,
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> "*Reaffirming* internationally agreed development goals, targets and commitments contained in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in five parts, under the symbol A/58/483 and Add.1-4.

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"*Recalling* the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2002 of the Economic and Social Council, on the contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development,

"*Stressing* that health and education are at the core of human resources development, and the need to ensure that by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that they will have equal access to all levels of education, as expressed at the World Education Forum, held at Dakar in 2000, and in the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing* that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development, and that human resources development is a fundamental aspect of poverty eradication and is vital to the process of sustainable development, contributing to sustained economic growth, social development and environmental protection,

"*Stressing* that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development, and the need for greater support from the international community to complement the efforts of developing countries,

"*Stressing also* the need for enabling national and international environments that will enhance human resources development of developing countries so that they can face the challenges of and benefit from globalization,

"*Recognizing* the need for adequate financial resources to increase investment in human resources development,

"*Expressing concern* at the increasing development gap between developed and developing countries, including the gap in knowledge, and information and communication technologies, and the increasing disparity of income in and among nations and its adverse impact on the development of human resources in the developing countries,

"*Expressing deep concern* at the devastating impact of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic, malaria, tuberculosis and other major infectious diseases on human resources development in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa,

"*Noting* the impact of brain drain on human resources development and sustainable development in developing countries, and recognizing the need for further studies and analyses of its effects in the context of globalization,

"*Emphasizing* the continuing need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in fostering the development of their human resources, especially that of the most vulnerable groups, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Recognizes* the importance of developing human resources as a means, inter alia, of promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and eradicating poverty, as well as of participating more effectively in the world economic system and benefiting from globalization;

"3. *Urges* increased investments by all countries, the United Nations system, international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in all aspects of human development, such as health, nutrition, education, training and further capacity-building, with a view to achieving sustainable development and the well-being of all;

"4. *Also urges* the adoption of comprehensive approaches to human resources development in designing and implementing development strategies at national, subregional, regional and international levels, while recognizing the role that the local knowledge system could play;

"5. *Encourages* all countries to ensure local- and community-level engagement in the formulation and implementation of national and local policies to promote human resources development and, in this regard, encourages them to continue developing individual capacity as well as empowering communities;

"6. *Recognizes* the lack of adequate resources in developing countries to expand coverage and improve the quality of education, in particular to provide free universal primary education;

"7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide greater technical assistance, financial support and allocation to human resources development in the developing countries;

"8. *Encourages* the United Nations system to focus in its cooperation activities on building human and institutional capacity, with specific attention given to women, girls and vulnerable groups;

"9. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to harmonize further its collective human resources development efforts, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

"10. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue engaging in partnerships, with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, where appropriate, in accordance with United Nations resolutions, so as to contribute further to the building of human resources development capacity in developing countries;

"11. *Recognizes* the role of information and communication technologies in promoting human resources development and, in this regard, welcomes the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Geneva (in 2003) and Tunis (in 2005), as an important step towards addressing the challenges of bridging the digital divide as well as a truly information and knowledge-based approach towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries;

"12. *Also recognizes* the need to direct concerted efforts at enhancing the technical skills and know-how of people living in rural and agricultural areas, with a view to improving their means of livelihood and material well-being,

and, in this regard, encourages the allocation of more resources for this purpose so as to facilitate access to appropriate technology and know-how from within and from other countries, in particular the developed countries, as well as through South-South cooperation, including triangular arrangements;

"13. *Invites* international organizations, including international financial institutions, to give greater priority to supporting the objectives of human resources development and to integrating them into their policies, projects and operations;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include a separate section therein on the effect of brain drain and, where applicable, of reverse brain drain on human resources development in developing countries;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development and international economic cooperation', the sub-item entitled 'Human resources development'."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg (Sweden), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Human resources development" (A/C.2/58/L.56), which she submitted as a result of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.5.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.56 (see para. 8).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America (see A/C.2/58/SR.37).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.56, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.5 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Human resources development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 54/211 of 22 December 1999 and 56/189 of 21 December 2001, as well as the relevant sections of the Agenda for Development,[1]

Reaffirming internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2]

Recalling the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2002 of the Economic and Social Council, on the contribution of human resources development, including in the areas of health and education, to the process of development,[3]

Stressing that health and education are at the core of human resources development and the need to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and will have equal access to all levels of education, as expressed at the World Education Forum, held at Dakar in 2000, and in the Millennium Declaration,

Recognizing that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and that human resources development is a fundamental aspect of poverty eradication and is vital to the process of sustainable development, contributing to sustained economic growth, social development and environmental protection,

Recognizing that there is a need to integrate human resource development into comprehensive strategies that mainstream a gender perspective,

Stressing that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and the need for greater support from the international community for the national efforts of developing countries,

Stressing also the need for enabling national and international environments that will enhance human resources development of developing countries so that they can face the challenges of and benefit from globalization,

Recognizing the need for adequate financial resources to increase investment in human resources development,

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[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/57/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 44.

Expressing concern at the increasing development gap between developed and developing countries, including the gap in knowledge and in access to information and communication technologies, and the disparity of income within and among nations and its adverse impact on the development of human resources in the developing countries,

Expressing deep concern at the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, malaria, tuberculosis and other major infectious diseases on human resources development in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa,

Noting the impact of the movement of highly skilled people and those with an advanced education on human resources development and sustainable development in developing countries, and recognizing the need for further studies and analyses of its effects in the context of globalization,

Emphasizing the continuing need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in fostering the development of their human resources, especially that of the most vulnerable groups, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Recognizes* the importance of developing human resources as a means, inter alia, of promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development and eradicating poverty, as well as of participating more effectively in the world economic system and benefiting from globalization;

3. *Urges* increased investments by all countries, the United Nations system, international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in all aspects of human development, such as health, nutrition, education, training and further capacity-building, with a view to achieving sustainable development and the well-being of all;

4. *Also urges* the adoption of comprehensive approaches to human resources development in designing and implementing development strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels and the sharing of best practices, while recognizing the role that local knowledge systems could play;

5. *Further urges* the adoption of cross-sectoral approaches to human resources development, which combine, among other factors, economic growth, poverty eradication, provision of basic social services, sustainable livelihoods, empowerment of women, involvement of young people, the needs of vulnerable groups of society, the needs of local indigenous communities, political freedom, popular participation and respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity in order to meet the challenge of development;

6. *Encourages* all countries to ensure local and community-level engagement in the formulation and implementation of national and local policies to promote human resources development, and in this regard encourages them to continue developing individual capacity as well as empowering communities;

[4] A/58/348.

7. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national and local policies to promote human resources development;

8. *States* the importance of ensuring adequate resources for education as a fundamental aspect of eradicating poverty and promoting development with a view to achieving sustainable economic growth and human development;

9. *Encourages* Governments to manage resources assigned to education in a responsible, accurate and transparent way and to ensure accountability;

10. *Recognizes* the lack of adequate resources in many developing countries to expand coverage and improve the quality of education, in particular to provide free universal primary education;

11. *Encourages* the international community to provide greater technical assistance, financial support and allocation to human resources development in the developing countries in support of their national efforts;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations system to focus in its cooperation activities on building human and institutional capacity, with specific attention given to women, girls and vulnerable groups;

13. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to harmonize further its collective human resources development efforts, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue engaging in partnerships with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, where appropriate, in accordance with United Nations resolutions and national priorities, so as to contribute further to the building of human resources development capacity in developing countries;

15. *Recognizes* the role of information and communication technologies in promoting human resources development, and in this regard welcomes the World Summit on the Information Society, the first phase of which was held at Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 and the second phase of which will be held in Tunis in 2005, as an important step towards addressing the challenges of bridging the digital divide, as well as identifying a truly information and knowledge-based approach towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in developing countries;

16. *Also recognizes* the need to direct concerted efforts at enhancing the technical skills and know-how of people living in rural and agricultural areas with a view to improving their means of livelihood and material well-being, and in this regard encourages the allocation of more resources for this purpose so as to facilitate access to appropriate technology and know-how from within countries as well as from other countries, in particular the developed countries, and through South-South cooperation, including triangular arrangements;

17. *Invites* international organizations, including international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, to give greater priority to supporting the objectives of human resources development and to integrating them into their policies, projects and operations;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include a separate section therein on the effect of the movement of highly skilled people and those with an advanced education on human resources development in developing countries;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".